



# 388<sup>TH</sup>



Newsletter of the Carson Area Chapter - 388 of the Vietnam Veterans of America  
[commobunker388@charter.net](mailto:commobunker388@charter.net)



## OPERATION POPEYE “MOTORPOOL”

Operation Popeye (among 54th Weather Recon Squadron crews, the mission was referred to as Motorpool) was a highly classified weather modification program in Southeast Asia during 1967-1972. The cloud seeding operation during the Vietnam war ran from March 20, 1967 until July 5, 1972 in an attempt to extend the monsoon season, specifically over areas of the Ho Chi Minh Trail. The operation was used to induce rain and extend the East Asian Monsoon season in support of U.S. government efforts related to the War in Southeast Asia.

The operation seeded clouds with both silver iodide and lead iodide, resulting in the targeted areas seeing an extension of the monsoon period by an average of 30 to 45 days. As the continuous rainfall slowed down the truck traffic, it was considered relatively successful. However, resultant rain and subsequent flooding of the nearby Song Con River is sometimes blamed for the move of POWs from the prison camp at Son Tay and therefore, the failure of Operation Ivory Coast (see January Newsletter).

The former U.S. Secretary of Defense, Robert S. McNamara, was aware that there might be objections raised by the international scientific community but said in a memo to the president that such objections had not in the past been a basis for prevention of military activities considered to be in the interests of U.S. national security.

The chemical weather modification program was conducted from Thailand over Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam and allegedly sponsored by Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and CIA without the authorization of then Secretary of Defense Melvin Laird who had categorically denied to Congress that a program for modification of the weather for use as a tactical weapon even existed.

*Cont'd on Page 2*



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CEO

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## CHAPTER ORGANIZATION

### ELECTED OFFICERS

|                |                |
|----------------|----------------|
| Frank Reynolds | President      |
| Tom Spencer    | Vice President |
| Jack McQuirk   | Treasurer      |
| Lee Jackson    | Secretary      |

### STANDING COMMITTEES:

Executive Committee\*\*  
Finance Committee\*\*  
Community Services Committee  
Outreach  
Membership Affairs  
Government Affairs  
Chaplain's  
Adopt-a-Vet Dental Program  
Communications  
POW/MIA  
Health/Transportation  
Special Events  
Scholarship  
VSO  
Welcome Home  
Women's Affairs

### CONTACT

Frank Reynolds  
Frank Reynolds  
OPEN  
Verne Horton  
Tom Spencer  
Darrol Brown  
Bruce Bertram  
Brenda Horton  
Verne Horton  
Darrol Brown  
Neal Davies  
Jack McQuirk/Larry Knack/Ron Moore  
Darrol Brown/Bruce Bertram  
Joe Matisohn  
Rick Arnold  
Lee Jackson

### AD HOC COMMITTEES

|   |             |
|---|-------------|
| Vietnam Veterans Recognition Day        | Rick Arnold |
| Wreaths Across America                  |             |
| Veterans Day Committee                  |             |
| Others (as called for by the President) |             |

\*\* Membership established by Chapter By-Laws  
Chapter President is a member of all Committees



**388th** is a monthly publication of the Vietnam Veterans of America - Carson Area Chapter 388 and is published solely for the education of and communication with it's membership and other interested parties. Not for Sale.

*Verne R. Horton, Editor/Publisher*

#### Contact Information:

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Chapter 388 Website: <http://vva388.com/>

Chapter Facebook Page: VVA Chapter 388 Carson City Nevada

Chapter President: Frank Reynolds: [vva388@gmail.com](mailto:vva388@gmail.com)

#### Chapter Meetings:

Veterans Hall - 2nd and Curry Streets, Carson City, NV 89701  
1st Thursday of each month - 5:30 pm

#### Breakfast Meetings

Grandma Hatties Restaurant - 2811 So. Carson St., Carson City  
Mid- Month - email [vva388@gmail.com](mailto:vva388@gmail.com) for specific date and time.

*Cont'd from Page 1*

The 54th Weather Reconnaissance Squadron carried out the operation using the slogan "make mud, not war". Starting on March 20, 1967, and continuing through every rainy season (March to November) in Southeast Asia until 1972, operational cloud seeding missions were flown. Three C-130 Hercules aircraft and two F-4C Phantom aircraft based at Udorn Royal Thai Air Force Base Thailand flew two sorties per day. The aircraft were officially on weather reconnaissance missions and the aircraft crews as part of their normal duty also generated weather report data. The crews, all from the 54th Weather Reconnaissance Squadron, were rotated into the operation on a regular basis from Guam.

The initial area of operations was the eastern half of the Laotian panhandle. On 11 July 1967, the operational area was increased northward to around the area of the 20th parallel and included portions of far western North Vietnam. In September 1967, the A Shau Valley in South Vietnam was added to the operational area. Operations over North Vietnam were eliminated on April 1, 1968, concurrent with conventional bombing restrictions being put into effect. The southern region of North Vietnam was added to the operational area on September 25, 1968, and then removed on November 1 of that year concurrent with a halt to conventional bombing of North Vietnam. In 1972, most of northeastern Cambodia was added to the operational area.

All rainmaking operations ceased on July 5, 1972.

## FEMALE VIETNAM WAR VETERANS AND PTSD

Female Vietnam War veterans suffer significant rates of post-traumatic stress disorder decades after the war, partly because of the sexual harassment and discrimination they faced while attending to the wounded and dying, according to a new study.

Of the women surveyed, 20 percent experienced PTSD at some point after the war, according to the study published this week in JAMA Psychiatry, a publication of the Journal of the American Medical Association. Most of these women were nurses. Nearly 16 percent currently suffered from the disorder at the time of the study.

By contrast, among military women of the era who remained in the United States, 14 percent had experienced PTSD, with 9 percent still suffering from it. Women who served near Vietnam — for example, in Thailand or the Philippines — had the lowest rates of the disorder: 11.5 percent experienced PTSD and 8 percent currently had the disorder.

The study, funded by the Department of Veterans Affairs, is based on surveys and phone interviews of more than 4,000 Vietnam-era female veterans. Of these, 1,956 had been stationed in Vietnam, mostly in the Army; 657 had served nearby on bases in Asia, mostly in the Air Force; and 1,606 had served in the U.S.

"Vietnam service significantly increased the odds of PTSD relative to U.S. service; this effect appears to be related to wartime exposures, especially sexual discrimination or harassment and job performance pressures," the study concludes.

## THE QUINTESSENTIAL DOGTAG

During the American Civil War (1861-65), only 58% of soldiers killed in action were positively identified. Soldiers worried that if they were killed their families would never know what happened to them, other than that they were missing in action. They wrote their names on a piece of paper or a handkerchief and pinned it to their clothing before going into battle. Some soldiers went to the trouble of carving small wooden discs with their names on them. They drilled a hole in the disc and hung the disc from their neck with a piece of string.

Eventually merchants began producing and selling metal disks to soldiers. Harper's Weekly Magazine advertised "soldier's pins" made of silver or gold and etched with the soldier's name and unit. Some soldiers made their own ID tags by grinding off one side of a coin and then etching their names on it. Dogs wore similar identification tags, so it wasn't long before soldiers began referring their ID tags as dog tags.

By the 1890's the US Army and Navy began experimenting with issuing metal identification tags to recruits. During WWI, the French wore a bracelet with a metal disk, called a plaque d'identité, that was engraved with the soldier's name, rank and formation.

When the United States entered the war in 1917, all soldiers were issued two aluminum tags that were hand-stamped with their name, rank, serial number, unit and religion. The tags were suspended from their necks by cord or tape.

During WWII, tags were stamped by a machine and were rectangular shaped with round ends and a notch at one end. It was rumored that the notch was put in the tag so that the tag could be placed in a dead soldier's mouth and would hold it open so that the gasses would escape and the body wouldn't become bloated. Fortunately, the truth was a little less gruesome. The stamping machine required a notch to hold the blank in place as it was being stamped. The tags were first made of brass and later a corrosion-resistant alloy of nickel and copper. By the end of the war, all tags were made from stainless steel. They were suspended from the neck by a rope, a beaded chain or a stainless steel wire with a plastic cover.

During the Vietnam War, new stamping machines were used and the notch was eliminated. Soldiers began taping their tags together so that they wouldn't make any noise and give away their position. By the end of the war, rubber covers were developed to keep the tags silent. Soldiers often put one tag in their boot, in case their body was dismembered to the extent that normal means of identification were impossible.

American-style dog tags are in use around the world, thanks to the post-WWII export of blanks and stamping machines by the US. During the two Persian Gulf wars, Iraqi soldiers wore dog tags that were identical to their American counterparts except that the printing was in Arabic.

Soldiers still wear metal dog tags today, but a new generation is being developed that holds a microchip containing the soldier's medical and dental records. Called a Personal Information Carrier (PIC) it is expected to be deployed soon. The Marines have developed their own version, called the Tactical Medical Coordination System (TacMedCS) that can pinpoint the location of a wounded soldier using the Global Positioning System (GPS).

## REMEMBERING A TIME IN 1967

Ed Duke, a Vietnam War veteran, is hoping to solve a mystery lingering since 1967.

"Young and dumb, you're bullet proof, you can walk on water. And, there ain't nothing you can't do with that chopper," he said.



"I come in one night with 33 bullet holes going into my bird and nobody got hurt on that aircraft," the retired Army captain recalled of one of the scariest moments of his two tours in Vietnam.

"I flew for two full tours and never got a Purple Heart. The good Lord blessed me immensely. I'm glad," he said with a laugh. "That's the one award I did not want."

What he wants now is to find someone.

"It stuck in my mind, this particular one it stuck in my mind all of this time".

It was a rescue in 1967. Duke's company, the 281st Assault Helicopter Company, was assigned to assist Green Berets at work deep in the Vietnam jungle. Of the hundreds of rescue missions, he vividly recalls the trip to save a Green Beret, near death, who had fallen into a Punji Pit -- a razor-sharp booby trap set by the enemy that was often made with sharpened sticks that were purposely tainted with feces to maim, infect, or kill American soldiers.

But when Duke got to the rescue site, there was no room for the chopper to land. The soldiers were near a high altitude ridge. Duke says he decided to swing the Huey as close as he could to the ridge and have the soldiers on the ground literally throw the wounded soldier into the still moving chopper.

"I told 'em two guys get out on that point, and I'm gonna come in and just flare and float and bump my skids and drop it down in about a 3,000-foot valley, and get my air speed up and fly out," he said.

"Well if we miss we're gonna kill 'em," he remembers his crew telling him. "Well, if we don't try, he's gonna die anyway, you know," he replied.

It worked. Duke and his aircrew got the injured soldier to a hospital, and then realized how near death they'd all just been.

"And I'm thinking to myself, 'Man, you are so good, you done saved this kid's life, you know.' And I looked down, and I got a cigarette in each hand," he said with a laugh.

But Duke never got the soldier's name, never found out if the soldier lived. At 73 years old, he wants to know now.

"So it would really be interesting to find out if he made it. If he's still alive, I'd love to hug his neck. If he made it, I would love to find out. It would make me cry. I would be so overjoyed."

"I would love to. I really would love to," he said. "I'm hoping someone will see this story that will trigger old memories."

## FIVE THINGS YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW ABOUT TODAY'S VETERANS

1.) **One in five homeless people are veterans** - U.S. military veterans make up 23 percent of the total homeless population in America, while, comparatively, they account for only 11 percent of the total adult civilian population. According to Veterans, Inc., there are currently more than 22 million veterans in the United States. The National Alliance to End Homelessness reports that of those veterans, about nine percent are or will be homeless at some point during any given year.

2.) **Vietnam veterans make up 35 percent of the living veterans** - Aside from it being the longest war in U.S. history, the Second Indochina War is one that differs from other American wars. Commonly referred to as the Vietnam War, this military effort was extremely controversial. Arguably, the Vietnam War will always have a somewhat tarnished reputation in the mind of many of today's adult civilians.

3.) **Roughly 50 percent of homeless veterans suffer from PTSD** - The National Institute of Mental Health defines post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) as "an anxiety disorder that can develop after exposure to a terrifying event or ordeal in which grave physical harm occurred or was threatened." Mental health issues like these can have a negative impact on a veteran's ability to hold a job and maintain relationships. Individuals plagued by these stress disorders become emotionally numb and will go to extremes to avoid triggers that may cause flashbacks, nightmares, distress and severe physical symptoms.

4.) **There are over three million disabled veterans currently living in the U.S.** - The U.S. Census Bureau reports that, as of 2013, there were 3.6 million veterans with service-connected disabilities. A service-connected disability is defined as a disability that is "a result of a disease or injury incurred or aggravated during active military service." Additionally, the severity of a veteran's disability is rated on a scale from zero to 100 percent — with 100 being the worst. Of the 3.6 million disabled veterans, about one million have a severity rating of 70 percent or higher.

5.) **Women are one of the fastest growing subpopulations of U.S. veterans** - According to the Associated Press, the number of male veterans is supposed to decline by 2020 while the number of female veterans is supposed to dramatically increase. Currently there are more than two million female veterans living in the United States, making up nearly 10 percent of the entire military population.



Our Sincere Condolences to our  
AVVA Member - Debbie Salzman on the passing of her  
father

**Jerry Reynolds**  
**Feb. 23, 1928 - Jan. 20, 2016**  
**Veteran - U.S. Coast Guard**

The Carson Area Chapter 388 of the Vietnam Veterans of America presents the

# 2016

# WELCOME HOME!



## VIETNAM VETERANS DAY CELEBRATION

### April 2, 2015 - 5:00PM

At the Nevada Vietnam Memorial,  
all Vietnam Veterans and the Public  
are invited to attend the 2016

## *"Welcome Home Ceremony"*

*Honoring those who served and came home  
and remembering those Brothers and Sisters  
who served, but never made it home.*

Vietnam Veterans Memorial - East End of Mills Park

A no-host reception will follow from  
5:30PM to 8:30PM. Vietnam Veterans  
and the public are invited to attend.

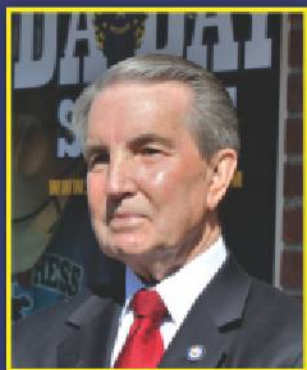


2171 E William St, Carson City, NV 89701

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# Welcome Home Brothers and Sisters.

- Mayor Bob Crowell



Gregory Carman, DMD



Jack L. Harrington, DDS

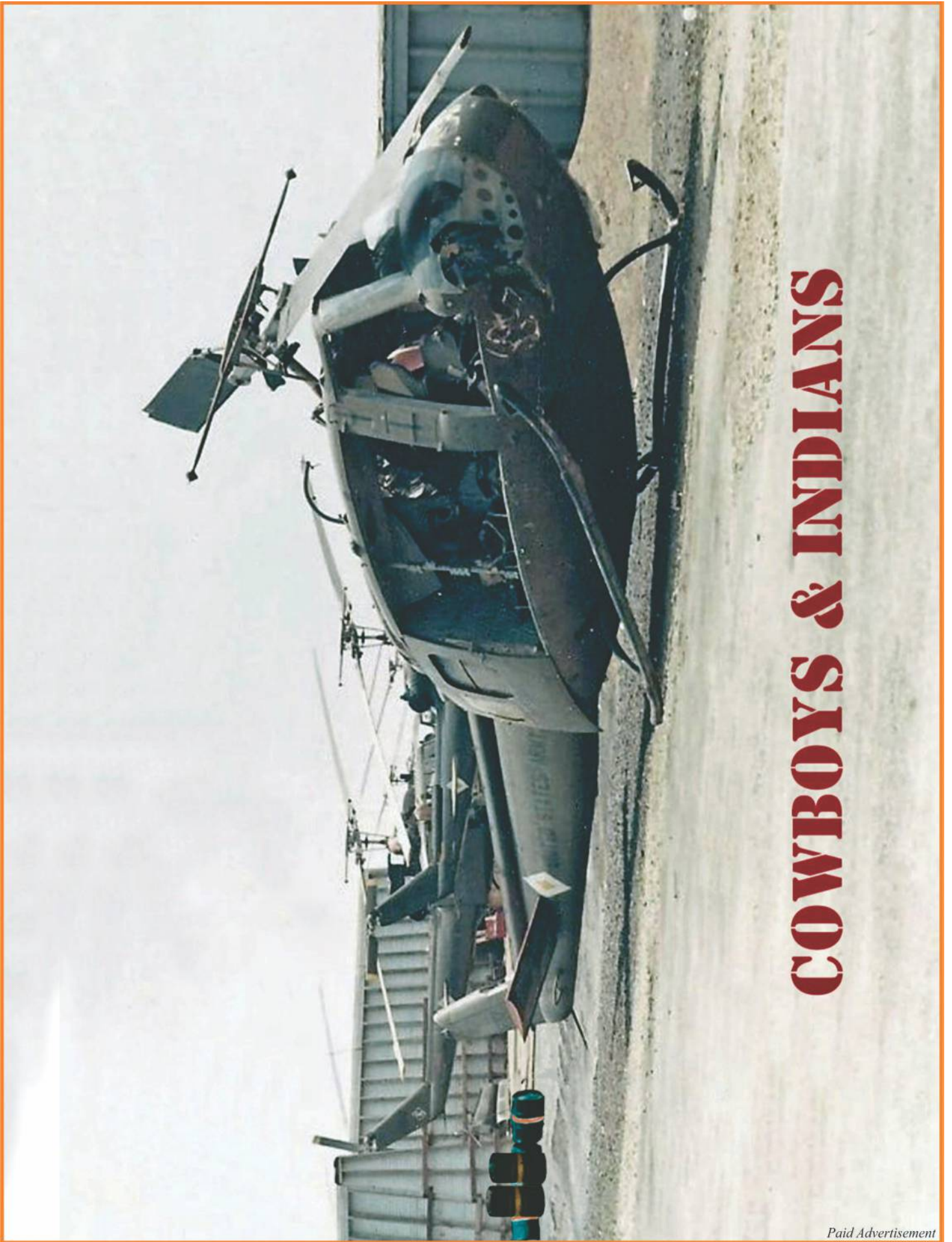
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## AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

### Combat Infantry Badge (CIB)

by John Hussong

The CIB is a United States Army Military award created during World War II and is awarded to infantrymen (11B.1-6) and Special Forces soldiers in the rank of Colonel and below who *personally* fought in active ground combat. It is awarded for performing duties while personally present and under fire while serving in an assigned Infantry, Ranger or Special Forces capacity engaged in active ground combat.

This award specifically recognizes the inherent sacrifices of all infantrymen and that in comparison to all other military occupational specialties, infantrymen face the greatest risk of being wounded or KIA.

**Republic of Vietnam:** 02Mar61-28Mar73  
with qualifying service in Laos 19Apr61-06Oct62



1st award CIB



2nd award CIB



3rd award CIB

On 08Feb52, the Army approved the addition of "stars" to the CIB indicating that soldiers fought in more than one war. There are (currently) only four periods for which an award of the badge can be made:

#### WWII

07Dec41-03Sept45

#### Korea

27Jun50-27Jul53

#### Vietnam and Cold War Era Actions

02Mar61-10Mar95

#### War on Terror

05Dec2001-present



Carson Area Chapter 388 - Vietnam Veterans of America

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**Brenda Horton, HLM**

VVA-388/Adopt a Vet Dental Program Volunteer Case Manager

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*Certified Public Accountant*

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johnwardencpa@sbcglobal.net



## CARSON VALLEY VETERINARY HOSPITAL

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Fax: (775) 883-4346

www.steelecpas.com

# 2016 TENTATIVE CALENDAR

*The below events and dates with the exception of Chapter Meetings, Breakfasts and National Holidays are tentative and subject to change.*

| <u>Date</u>   | <u>Event</u>                    | <u>Location</u>    |
|---------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| January 7     | Chapter Meeting                 | Carson City        |
| January 16    | Breakfast 9AM                   | Grandma Hattie's   |
| February 4    | Chapter Meeting                 | Carson City        |
| February 20   | Breakfast 9AM                   | Grandma Hattie's   |
| March 3       | Chapter Meeting                 | Carson City        |
| March 19      | Breakfast 9AM                   | Grandma Hattie's   |
| April 2       | Welcome Home                    | Mills Park/        |
|               | Vietnam Veterans Day            |                    |
| April 7       | Chapter Meeting                 | Carson City        |
| April 16      | Breakfast 9AM                   | Grandma Hattie's   |
| May TBA       | Outreach                        |                    |
| May 5         | Chapter Meeting                 | Carson City        |
| May 21        | Breakfast 9AM                   | Grandma Hattie's   |
| May 21        | ARMED FORCES DAY                |                    |
| May 31        | MEMORIAL DAY                    |                    |
| June TBA      | Outreach                        |                    |
| June 2        | Chapter Meeting                 | Carson City        |
| June 11       | Carson Valley Days Parade       | Minden             |
| June 14       | FLAG DAY                        |                    |
| June 18       | Carson City Airport Open House  | Carson City        |
| June 18       | Breakfast 9AM                   | Grandma Hattie's   |
| July 4        | INDEPENDENCE DAY                |                    |
| July 7        | Chapter Meeting                 | Carson City        |
| July 16       | Breakfast 9AM                   | Grandma Hattie's   |
| July TBA      | 388 Summer Sizzler BBQ          | Carson City        |
| August TBA    | Outreach                        |                    |
| August TBA    | Adopt a Vet Poker Run           | Carson City        |
| August 4      | Chapter Meeting                 | Carson City        |
| August 20     | Breakfast 9AM                   | Grandma Hattie's   |
| September TBA | Dayton Valley Days              | Dayton             |
| September TBA | Outreach                        |                    |
| September 1   | Chapter Meeting                 | Carson City        |
| September 16  | POW/MIA Recognition Day         | TBA                |
| September 17  | Breakfast 9AM                   | Grandma Hattie's   |
| October 6     | Chapter Meeting                 | Carson City        |
| October 15    | Breakfast 9AM                   | Grandma Hattie's   |
| October 29    | Nevada Day Parade               | Carson City        |
| November 3    | Chapter Meeting                 | Carson City        |
| November 11   | Veterans Day Parade             | Virginia City      |
| November 19   | Breakfast 9AM                   | Grandma Hattie's   |
| December      | Christmas Party                 | TBA                |
| December 1    | Chapter Meeting                 | Carson City        |
| December TBA  | Christmas Shopping for Families | Walmart -Topsy Ln. |
| December 17   | Wreaths Across America          | Fernley            |



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

|                  |        |                   |        |
|------------------|--------|-------------------|--------|
| Verne Horton     | Feb 1  | Raleigh Patterson | Mar 1  |
| Bob Zajonc       | Feb 7  | Robert Winter     | Mar 4  |
| Arlo Miller      | Feb 18 | Joe Matisohn      | Mar 12 |
| Rosevelt Reed    | Feb 18 | Dan Howard        | Mar 18 |
| Jim Whiteside    | Feb 22 | Stu Miller        | Mar 22 |
| Rick Arnold      | Feb 23 | Al Keller         | Mar 28 |
| Curtis McLachlan | Feb 23 | Chuck Sanicola    | Mar 28 |
| Gerald Bowers    | Feb 28 | Geneva Arnold     | Mar 30 |
|                  |        | Steve Lauritzen   | Mar 31 |

## FEBRUARY FACTOID

By 1964, the Viet Cong, the Communist guerrilla force, has 35,000 troops in South Vietnam.

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# USEFUL CONTACTS

Carson Area Chapter - 388, Vietnam Veterans of America website [www.vva388.org](http://www.vva388.org) : email: [vva388@gmail.com](mailto:vva388@gmail.com)

## Websites

**VVA** [www.vva.org](http://www.vva.org)

- Programs, News, Forms, Services, Applications
- Benefits, Publications/Forms, LSO Listings
- 1-877-222-8387 (Help Line)
- 1-800-237-8255 (Crisis Line)
- 1-877-424-3838 (Homeless)

**Service Records** [www.archives.gov](http://www.archives.gov)

**Memorial Wall Research** [www.virtualwall.org](http://www.virtualwall.org)

**Agent Orange Website** [www.lewispublishing.com](http://www.lewispublishing.com)

- FAQ's, Maps, VA Compensation & Claims

**General Military** [www.military.com](http://www.military.com)

- Benefit Info, News, Stories, Buddy Finder

**Nevada Dept. of Veteran Services** [www.veterans.nv.us](http://www.veterans.nv.us)

- Benefit Info, News

**Army Times** [www.armytimes.com](http://www.armytimes.com)

- Online Publication, News, Benefit Info

**Navy Times** [www.navytimes.com](http://www.navytimes.com)

- Online Publication, News, Benefit Info

**Marine Corps Times** [www.marinecorpstimes.com](http://www.marinecorpstimes.com)

- Online Publication, News, Benefit Info

**Air Force Times** [www.airforcetimes.com](http://www.airforcetimes.com)

- Online Publication, News, Benefit Info

**50th Anniversary - Vietnam War** [www.vietnam50th.com](http://www.vietnam50th.com)

- Events, Photos, Interactive Timeline

## Local Veteran Services

### F.I.S.H.

138 Long Street  
Carson City, NV 89706  
Office: 775-992-3474  
email: [www.info@nvfish.com](mailto:www.info@nvfish.com)



### Reno Veteran Center

5580 Mill Street  
Reno, NV 89502  
Office: 775-323-1294  
Fax: 775-322-8123



### Healthcare for Homeless Veterans

350 Capitol Hill  
Reno, NV 89502  
Office: 775-324-6600



### US Veterans Employment Services

500 E 3rd Street  
Carson City, NV 89713  
Office: 687-4632



### Nevada Job Connect

775- 4684-0456  
1929 N. Carson Street  
Carson City, NV 89701



### Veterans Employment Services

#### State Dept. of Employment, Training & Rehabilitation

1933 N. Carson Street  
Carson City, NV 89701  
Office: 775-684-0400



### Northern Nevada Veterans Resource Center

**Reno** 419 W. Plumb Lane  
Reno, NV 89509  
775-284-8387



### Veterans Healthcare USA

145 Esmeralda Drive.  
Washoe Valley, Nevada 89704  
Office: 887-338-8807



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### Western Nevada College Veterans Resource Center

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